

# **Special Meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee**

**Thursday, August 14, 2014, 7:30 PM**

**School Administration Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room**

**286 Main Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860**

## **Minutes**

### **I. Meeting will come to order**

**The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.**

#### **a. Roll call**

**Ms. Bonollo-here; Mr. Coughlin-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Spooner-here; Mr. Araujo-here**

**Ms. Cano and Mr. Tenreiro were not in attendance this evening.**

**Also in attendance were Mrs. Patricia DiCenso, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Melissa Devine, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Dennis Rebelo, Director of Facilities and Mr. Jon Anderson, Legal Counsel for the Pawtucket School Committee.**

#### **b. Pledge of Allegiance**

**The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, led the audience in the Pledge of**

**Allegiance.**

## **II. Public Participation**

**Comments from the public are invited at this time. Citizens wishing to speak should sign in with the committee Chair before speaking. The Committee is precluded from discussing or acting on items raised by Public Comment, which are not already on the agenda. Public comment will be included in the minutes of the meeting.**

**Mr. Joseph Knight: I'm here because I attended the Attorney General's Open Meeting Summit and it was very embarrassing to me to see the Pawtucket School Committee mentioned three times and it shows we have a problem with transparency. I am here to urge the School Committee to release the minutes from the executive session. Thank you.**

## **III. Executive Session**

**The Chairman commented that the Committee would recess to executive session in accordance with provisions under Title 42, Chapter 46, Subsection 5(as) (1) (job performance, physical and mental health) (2) legal advice and litigation/collective bargaining of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island for the purpose of acting on and/or discussing:**

## **1. Litigation**

- a. Botelho v. City of Pawtucket School Department**
- b. Shorey v Pawtucket School Committee**

## **2. Collective Bargaining**

- a. Pawtucket Administrators Association**

## **3. Job performance of a Teacher**

## **4. Seal Executive Session Minutes**

**The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, commented that executive session item number 4. Job Performance of a Teacher was no longer an item and would be skipped for discussion.**

**Mr. Spooner moved to recess to executive session. Ms. Bonollo seconded.**

## **Roll call**

**Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Araujo-yes**

**Motion carries with five members present.**

**The Committee recessed to executive session at 7:49 PM to 8:29 PM.**

## **IV. Reconvene to open session**

**The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, reconvened the open session at 8:34 PM.**

**a. Roll call**

**Ms. Bonollo-here; Mr. Coughlin-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Spooner-here; Mr. Araujo-here**

**V. Report out vote(s) of executive session of 8/14/14, if applicable**

**The clerk reported that the Committee voted unanimously on a collective bargaining matter with five members present. The Committee also voted four to one regarding a litigation matter. Mr. Coughlin was the opposing vote. The Committee voted unanimously to seal the executive session minutes and to adjourn the executive session with five members present.**

**VI. Acceptance of previous meetings minutes**

**Ms. Bonollo moved to approve and accept the June 30, 2014 meeting minutes. Mr. Spooner seconded.**

**Voice vote carried four in favor and one recusal-Mr. Coughlin recused because he was not in attendance at that meeting.**

**VII. New Business-Action Items**

## **1. Approval of Administrative Appointments**

**Mrs. DiCenso:** First I would like to present for you the approval of the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Assessment, and Instructional Technology. We had a committee interview five (5) candidates and all of the committee members recommended Lee Rabbit. She is well known in Pawtucket and currently works at the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE). Ms. Rabbit has worked in South Kingstown, Newport and she is a teacher's teacher and a wonderful addition to our staff.

**Mr. Spooner** moved to approve Ms. Lee Rabbit as the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Assessment, and Instructional Technology for the Pawtucket School District. **Ms. Bonollo** seconded.

**Roll call**

**Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes Mr. Araujo-yes**

**Motion carries unanimously with five members present.**

**Mrs. DiCenso:** We are pleased to put a name forward as the Systems Manager at Tolman High School, Ms. Robin Carlone. Ms. Carlone has many years of experience and will be joining us with your approval.

**Mr. Spooner moved to approve the appointment of Ms. Robin Carlone as Systems Manager at Tolman High School. Ms. Bonollo seconded.**

**Roll call**

**Ms. Bonollo-yes Mr. Coughlin-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Araujo-yes**

**Motion carries unanimously with five members present.**

## **2. Approval of Certified Recalls**

**Mrs. DiCenso: We are asking your approval for two certified recalls, one is an ELA/ESL at Slater, Andrew Maigret and the other is an ELA at Tolman, one year only and that is Leigh Murphy.**

**Ms. Bonollo moved to approve the certified recall appointments of ELA/ESL-Slater, Andrew Maigret and Leigh Murphy ELA at Tolman-one year only.**

**Voice Vote carries unanimously with five members present.**

## **3. Approval of Certified Appointments**

**Mrs. DiCenso: We have for your approval a revised list of certified appointments. Some names were taken off of the original list. The**

**certified appointments are:**

**Grade 4/5 ESL – Cunningham Elementary**

**Amanda Klaiber, 298 Daggett Avenue, Pawtucket, Rhode Island  
02861**

**Step 7 w/Masters Degree**

**Kindergarten/ESL – Curtis Elementary**

**Ashley Bouthillier, 14 Hemlock Drive, Exeter, Rhode Island 02822**

**Step 1 w/Masters Degree**

**Applied for ESL Emergency Certification**

**Grade 2/ESL – Baldwin Elementary**

**Samantha Stringfellow, 710 Read School House Road, Coventry,  
Rhode Island 02816**

**Step 1**

**Applied for ESL Emergency Certification**

**Grade 1/ESL – Winters Elementary**

**Sonia Sirois, 27 Pleasant Street, Apartment 2, Providence, Rhode  
Island 02906**

**Step 2**

**Applied for ESL Emergency Certification**

**Grade 6/ESL – Slater Jr. High School**

**Cassandra Lucena, 65 Abbott Run Valley Road, Cumberland, Rhode**

**Island 02864**

**Step 1**

**Psychologist - Winters/Fallon (Title Funds)**

**Ida Krikorian, 86 Crest Drive, Cranston, Rhode Island 02921**

**Step 1 w/Masters Degree**

**Psychologist – Varieur/Curtis (Title Funds)**

**David Cherry, Jr., 100 Birch Street, Warwick, Rhode Island 02888**

**Step 2 w/Masters Degree**

**Music – Curvin-McCabe Elementary**

**Jessica N. Hookway, 54 Welfare Avenue, Cranston, Rhode Island  
02910**

**Step 1**

**Sp. Ed. – Shea High School (1 yr. only)**

**Katelyn Desjarlais, 441 Farnum Pike, Smithfield, Rhode Island 02917**

**Step 1**

**Grade 6/ESL – Jenks Jr. High School**

**Krystle Greenhalgh, 630 Smithfield Road, Apartment 1014, North  
Providence, RI 02904**

**Step 1**

**Applied for ESL Emergency Certification**



**Sp. Ed. – Curvin-McCabe Elementary (1 yr. only)**

**Michelle Plante, 91 Finch Avenue, Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860**

**Step 1**

**Speech Language Pathologist – Curtis Elementary**

**Meaghan Falvo, 5 Stony Acre Drive, Johnston, Rhode Island 02919**

**Step 2 w/masters pending degree verification**

**Math Intervention – Slater Jr. High School (Title Funds)**

**Susan Soares, 491 Wilson Road, Fall River, Massachusetts 02720**

**Step 10 w/masters equivalency pending**

**School Nurse Teacher – Baldwin Elementary**

**Jennifer McKinnon, 177 Morris Street, Cumberland, Rhode Island  
02864**

**Step 1**

**School Social Worker – Baldwin Elementary**

**Bethany Handfield, 45 Algonquin Drive, Warwick, Rhode Island  
02888\***

**Step 1**

**School Social Worker – Fallon Elementary**

**Nicole Silvia, 72 Walnut Street, Tiverton, Rhode Island 02878\***

**Step 1**

**Chemistry Teacher – Tolman High School**

**Clarissa Gaspar, 90 Dogwood Drive, Apt 303, West Warwick, Rhode Island 02893\***

**Step 1**

**Coordinator of Data, Instructional Technology and Assessment – Ad. Bldg.**

**Donna Stone, 9 Keane Street, North Smithfield, Rhode Island 02896**

**Step 10**

**Literacy Coordinator – Ad. Bldg. (Title Funds)**

**Jennifer Carney, 38 Sunset Avenue, North Attleboro, Massachusetts 02760\***

**Mr. Spooner moved to approve the certified appointments as recommended by Mrs. DiCenso. Ms. Bonollo seconded.**

**Voice vote carries unanimously with five members present.**

#### **4. Approval of Certified Coaches**

**Mrs. DiCenso: We have two coaching appointments at Tolman for your approval this evening:**

**Boys' Head Soccer Coach-Tolman/Daniel Silva and Boys' Assistant Soccer Coach-Tolman/Luis DeCastro.**

**Mr. Spooner moved to approve the certified coaching appointments as recommended by Mrs. DiCenso. Ms. Bonollo seconded.**

**Voice vote carries unanimously with five members present.**

## **5. Approval of Non Certified Appointment – Assistant Director of Facilities**

**Mrs. DiCenso: This is a position that has been opened for a while. We are recommending for your approval the appointment of the head custodian from Slater Junior High School, Mr. John Cote. If he does as good as a job he has done at Slater, you know we have chosen the right candidate.**

**Ms. Bonollo moved to approve the appointment of Mr. John Cote as the Assistant Director of Facilities. Ms. Nordquist seconded.**

**Voice vote carries unanimously with five members present.**

## **6. Approval to Donate and/or Destroy Dated Textbooks**

**Mrs. DiCenso: One year ago we began to collect books that were beyond binding repair and or no longer used at the secondary level. There were so many downstairs. Recycling is more than willing to take them for us. We left them upstairs so they would not have to be moved twice. So based on my conversation, we are making sure we**

**are asking for your approval to donate and/or destroy these books.**

**Ms. Bonollo moved to approve to donate and/or destroy dated textbooks. Mr. Spooner seconded.**

**Mr. Spooner: Is this going to be all the books that were at Tolman that were a fire hazard?**

**Mrs. DiCenso: Dennis and I are very frustrated with this situation.**

**Ms. Bonollo moved to amend the original motion to approve to donate and/or destroy dated textbooks to include all outdated books throughout the District to be discarded as the Superintendent, Mrs. DiCenso, Mr. Dennis Rebelo and Melissa Devine see fit. Mr. Spooner seconded the amendment.**

**Voice vote carries unanimously with five members present.**

**7. Approval of Communication to City Council re: The need to negotiate a flex space due to and possible remodeling of Nathanael Greene and Potter Burns and capacity issues**

**Mr. Araujo: We are looking for a vote to send correspondence to the City Council in anticipation of the bond. We are still looking at capacity issues as well and we need to look at feasible options.**

**Mr. Spooner moved to approve to send correspondence to the City Council regarding the need to negotiate a flex space due to and possible remodeling of Nathanael Greene and Potter Burns and capacity issues. Ms. Bonollo seconded.**

**Mrs. DiCenso: I and Mrs. Cylke had discussions about additional space at this point we have to have a vote to look at any properties because we do not have the authority to purchase additional space.**

**We are hoping to be pro-active to move forward and not hold up the health and safety repairs.**

**Mr. Rebelo: These rooms were supposed to be temporary, not permanent.**

**Voice vote carried unanimously with five members present.**

**Mr. Coughlin left the meeting at 8:50 PM.**

## **VIII. Superintendent's Report**

**Mrs. DiCenso: I want to say that the teachers are frustrated that they cannot get into their classrooms. I've been talking about how much work has been done at Goff and Winters.**

**Mr. Rebelo: We're a little behind on a few projects but on time for the**

majority of them.

**Mrs. DiCenso:** We will offer space here and at other locations. We are certain they will be please. It will be a better winter for Winters School.

## **IX. Special Reports of School Committee Members**

**Ms. Bonollo:** I will be brief. Saturday is the back to school backpack celebration at 9:00 AM. If you know anyone in need, I posted the information on Facebook. I think that is all for me. Fidelity will be at Slater on the 15th volunteering their time at the school and the ALP graduation is on August 20, 2014 at Goff.

**Ms. DiCenso:** It's the biggest graduation class we've had.

**Ms. Bonollo:** I'd also like to thank the teachers for being who they are. Teachers and Administration were at the wake and they engaged the kids wonderfully showing support. I thank you.

**Ms. Nordquist:** Good night.

**Mr. Spooner:** I'm done.

**Mr. Araujo:** I did stop by the wake and saw a number of personnel there and all we can do is to offer support to family and the sister. I

**offer my support to you so we can service that family.**

**X. Adjournment**

**Mr. Spooner moved to adjourn. Ms. Nordquist seconded.**

**Voice vote carried unanimously with four members present.**

**The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, adjourned the Special Meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee on Thursday, August 14, 2014 at 8:56 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Clerk**

**Approved by School Committee 9/10/14**